

CLEAN AIR High-Level Forum 2023 in Ulaanbaatar

The High-Level Forum on Clean Air was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 2-3 March 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



Air pollution has a large impact on human health and ecosystems and is the most important global environmental cause of premature deaths. The latest update of the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (2021) states that 7 million people worldwide annually die prematurely of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases that are attributable to ambient and household air pollution. The greatest number (two-thirds) of these premature deaths occurred in the South-East Asian and Western Pacific regions (as defined by the WHO), which can be attributed to the rapid economic and industrial, and urban growth in these areas.

The Asia Pacific region's economic growth and rapid urbanization have been accompanied

by a strong increase in air pollution.

To overcome some of these barriers, member States of ESCAP have adopted, at the 7th session of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP). In this regard, the forum was focused on operationalizing the RAPAP through further elaborating areas and modality of cooperation, strengthening connections among existing sub-regional initiatives, and creating a foundation of knowledge and expertise.

The forum was organized with the purposes of: 1) Presenting the RAPAP to multilateral, regional, and national stakeholders for strengthening science-based and

policy-oriented cooperation for improved air quality management; 2) Further elaborating the areas and modality of policy and technical cooperation of the RAPAP; 3) Developing partnership activities among multilateral and international cooperation mechanisms on air pollution in support of national action on clean air; 4) Discussing the contribution of the RAPAP to the work of multilateral and international cooperation mechanisms; 5) Formulating the modality of working groups on data and air quality standards.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP Ms. Armida Alisjahbana and Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia Mr. Bat-

Erdene.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Armida Alisjahbana said, "The adoption of the Action Programm and this forum demonstrates that regional cooperation is not only possible, but imperative to address the region's most pressing environmental issues. Too many of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable populations are regularly breathing unclean air. The risk to health and the cost to our economies and our environment require urgent actions. This forum must focus on leveraging our collective expertise and capacities to ensure those actions are taken immediately.

Through sub-regional dialogs facilitated by ESCAP and the member states led consultations that generated consensus on a focused and actionable program, we now have in the regional action program, five clearly defined areas for countries to develop domestic actions as well as for enhanced regional cooperation. We know that circumstances vary across our region, but all countries can improve, and an enhanced exchange of experiences can support country level actions."

Noting the fact that the Forum is being held in the coldest and one of the most vulnerable cities to climate change, the Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr. Bat-Erdene said, "For developing countries, the air pollution is attributable to cold winter and outdated technologies. Yet, we can contribute to mitigating climate change through renewable energy solutions, using eco cars, and creating green jobs. To that extent, we are striving to develop international and regional cooperation and have factories, technologies, and facilities that are environmentally friendly and meet international health standards."

The greeting message of

the Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. Oyun-Erdene was presented during the opening session. In his message, the Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. Oyun-Erdene said, "Besides air pollution, sand dust, soil pollution, and household air pollution had become critical issues for Mongolia. The goals to reduce air pollution in the capital city by up to 80 percent, to provide up to 30 percent of energy consumption with renewable energy by 2030, and to contribute to the energy supply of the region in the future are specified in the "Vision-2050," a long-term policy of the Government. Moreover, we strive to implement the "One Billion Trees" national campaign with the international community, cooperate with Korea, China, and Japan in mitigating climate change, and strengthen cooperation between developing countries. Currently, under the "One Billion Trees" national campaign, about 32 million trees have been planted.

This forum which brought together the high-level representatives from 53 countries, such as the USA, the Republic of India, the UK, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Russia, Turkey, China, and New Zealand, which are members of the UNESCAP, as well as over 200 representatives of international research and development organizations is one of the activities in preparation for the 17th conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Desertification (COP 17), which will be held in Mongolia in 2026.

During this forum, five sessions were held, including Improving Air Quality Management, Air Quality Monitoring, Best Practice Sharing and Capacity Building, Collaboration on Air Quality Data and Standards, and Partnership for RAPAP implementation.

President Receives Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Korea

The President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh received the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Kim Young Joo on February 15.

President U. Khurelsukh highly valued Ms. Kim Young Joo's contribution to developing the relations and cooperation between Mongolia and South Korea, in particular between the law enforcement organizations of our two countries.

While expressing his intention to closely cooperate with the Republic of Korea in strengthening the Strategic Partnership relations, advancing the trade and economic ties to a new level, and supporting people-to-



people exchanges, President U. Khurelsukh mentioned the joint achievements in the international and regional arena and within the

framework of the UN, and asked Ms. Kim Youn Joo to convey his warm greetings to President of the Republic of Korea Yoon

Suk Yeol. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Kim Young Joo expressed her support for the "Healthy Mongolian" national campaign initiated by the President of Mongolia.

To that extent, Ms. Kim Young Joo introduced the plan to implement a project to promote children's health, increase the accessibility of support in case of malnutrition and repository diseases and conduct professional development training for Mongolian pediatricians in cooperation with Korean "Green Hospital." Ms. Kim Young Joo also said that she would do everything in her power to expand and develop relations and cooperation in the future.

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Website: montsame.mn/en
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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/03/03		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1,838
COPPER	USD/lb.	412.15
SILVER	USD/t oz.	20.86
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	84.77
WHEAT	USD/bu	709

NEWS-IN-BRIEF from the MONTSAME AGENCY

● Mongolia and many other Eastern and Central Asian countries have followed the lunar calendar with its 12-year animal cycle since ancient times. The New Year according to the lunar calendar in Mongolia is called Tsagaan Sar.

The date of Tsagaan Sar, depending on the phases of the moon, can fall anywhere between the end of January and early March. In 2023, Mongolia observed the Tsagaan Sar between February 21-23. On February 21, on the first day of the Tsagaan Sar, the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, the Speaker of the Parliament Gombojavijn Zandanshatar, and the Prime Minister Luvssannamsrain Oyun-Erdene received the elders in the Government Palace to pay respect and wish them happiness, health, and prosperity.

Veterans participating in the war, statesmen and public figures, writers, poets, herders, police generals, teachers, builders, and doctors aged 81 to 99 came to the Zolgot, greeting ceremony.

● On February 15, Mongolian Ambassador to Canada Ya. Ariunbold met with the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada Anthony Rota. During the meeting, the sides emphasized the fact that this year marks the 50th anniversary of Mongolia-Canada Diplomatic Relations and exchanged views on history, present stage, and further development of our two countries' relations. In addition, the sides mutually expressed their interest in strengthening the cooperation between organizations that directly report to the Parliament while highlighting the significance of support of the supreme legislative bodies and their mutual understanding.

Similarities between Canada and Mongolia are cold climates, vast landscapes with small populations, large neighbors, and abundant mineral resources. Based on these similarities, both sides agreed on the possibilities of exchanging experiences on infrastructure standards, public service, and improving control systems. Other areas presenting potential opportunities for deeper cooperation include agriculture, Canadian investment in Mongolia, trade, and student exchanges. To that extent, the sides expressed their willingness to translate these opportunities into reality.

● On February 18, the Mongolian rescue team returned home after a week of search and rescue operations in Turkey, which was hit by massive earthquakes.

The team successfully rescued eight people /three children/ and found 19 bodies buried under rubble. The search and rescue dogs Balu and Malta have successfully aided operations in detecting people.

Colonel J. Sukh-Ochir and his army medic team of 11 military doctors gave first aid and saved 72 children and 649 adults. (359 males, 218 females)

Moreover, humanitarian aid was also successfully delivered from the people of Mongolia to Turkey.

● After the landing of the Mongolian rescue team, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkey to Mongolia Zafer Ateş said:

"Southern Turkey was hit with two major earthquakes on February 6, the largest national disaster of the past 100 years. Turkey is facing a tragic loss right now.

After the disaster, we asked for help from many countries. The Government of Mongolia immediately sent its team. We salute all who were among those who

landed in the disaster zone and immediately started their task.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. Mongolians were with us during this difficult time. I wanted to express my gratitude to the search and rescue team. We praise them for their bravery.

To all Mongolians, You all are our heroes. We will never forget your kindness. Thank you very much."

● The 2023 Judo Grand Slam was held between February 16 to 18. The beautiful city of Tel Aviv played host to the final day of an amazing Grand Slam as the sun set on another successful Judo tournament in Israel. On the final day of the Grand Slam, representing Mongolia, O. Tsetsengel bagged a gold medal in the men's +100 kg category with his stunning 1-0 win over Kokauri Ushangi from Azerbaijan, whereas G. Altanbagana received his fourth bronze medal from the Grand Slam in the men's -90 kg with 1-0 over Silva Morales Ivan Felipe from Cuba.

From 56 countries, 417 judokas competed in Tel Aviv Grand Slam 2023. Mongolian 18 judokas wrestled and G. Narantsetseg placed at 5th place in the women's -48 kg category, following E. Sumyabazar 7th place in the -60 kg category, and World Champion Ts. Tsogetbaatar 5th place in the -73 kg category.

● The Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene paid an Official Visit to the Republic of Korea between February 13-17 at the invitation of his Korean Counterpart Han Duck-soo. The outcomes of the Prime Minister's Official Visit were discussed during the non-regular meeting of the Cabinet on February 20.

Minister of Economy and Development Ch. Khurelbaatar said, "This time, the Prime Minister's Official Visit to Korea was aimed at attracting foreign direct investment to Mongolia. To that extent, the Prime Minister held several official talks and participated in Business Forum, jointly organized by the Mongolian and Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Moreover, the Prime Minister received representatives of Korean leading companies, including Samsung C&T, and Hyundai E&C, and exchanged views on investment opportunities in Mongolia. In the further, foreign direct investment will play a vital role in developing the Mongolian economy."

● Epilepsy surgery is brain surgery to stop or reduce the number of seizures you're having or their severity. Seizures are a burst of uncontrolled electrical activity between your brain's nerve cells, which can result in changes in awareness, muscle control (muscles may twitch or jerk), sensations, emotions, and behavior.

The average cost for epilepsy surgery is around 50,000-120,000\$. Therefore, it's not possible for all patients to go abroad and have the surgery.

State Central Third Hospital's Surgical Team jointly operated the epilepsy surgery with foreign surgical teams last year. They have operated 14 surgeries for now, such as Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE), Focal cortical dysplasia (FCD), Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, and Corpus callosotomy.

Positive results for the patients recovering from surgery include decreased complications and reduced seizure cycle by 50-60%. Even, some of them reported that they have not had seizures after the surgeries.

"World Export Development Forum 2023 Mongolia" Launched in Geneva



International Trade Center's (ITC) flagship annual event, the World Export Development Forum (WEDF) is underway to be organized in Ulaanbaatar on June 27-28, 2023, under the auspices of the President of Mongolia Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh under the theme of "Diversifying Green Trade: Organic, Digital, Sustainable." The launch event of WEDF 2023 was held on February 15th, 2023, on the premises of ITC headquarters in Geneva.

Mr. Tuvdendorj Gantumur, Vice Minister of Economic Development, Ms. Gerelmaa Davaasuren, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations Office at Geneva delivered opening remarks. Representing the UN and the ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC, and Mr. Vinod Ahuja, interim UNRC in Mongolia delivered opening remarks.

Ms. S. Bayasgalan, Secretary General

State Decorations Awarded

On the occasion of the Tsagaan Sar and the Year of Water Rabbit, the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh issued a decree and conferred State Decorations to distinguished personalities who dedicated many years of their lives to their respective fields and made a valuable contribution to the development of the country. On February 17, the ceremony of the award was held at the State Nine White Banners' Hall of the State Palace.

The title of Hero of Labour of Mongolia, Order of Sukhbaatar, and the Badge of Golden Soyombo of the Hero of Labor were conferred upon two-time State Best Herder and Honored Herder of Mongolia Budee Ravagt from Uvs aimag.

People's Artist of Mongolia-State Honored Artist of Mongolia, Caricaturist Tseveg Baigy; People's Doctor of Mongolia-Consultant Professor of the Department of Oncology of MNUMS, Consultant Doctor of National Cancer Center, and State Honored Doctor Ruvjir Sanduijav; Merit Industrial Worker-The Member of the Board of Directors of the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry Ochirbat Ragchaa; Merit Teacher-Senior

of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered her remarks, as well as traditional Mongolian music band led by the Cultural envoy of Mongolia Ms. Ts. Gerlee presented their "Mongolian Step" performance.

The launch event was joined by the Permanent Representative of China to the World Trade Organization, Ambassador LI Chenggang, the Permanent Representative of El Salvador, Ambassador Patricia Benedetti, the Permanent Representative of Gambia, Ambassador M.O Ka, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Ambassador Lansana Gberie, Permanent Representative of Uganda, Ambassador Marcel Tibelesa, Permanent Representative of Zambia, Ambassador Tembo Luambia, as well as representatives from the Mission of Botswana, Bhutan, Burundi, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Nepal, Seychelles, and Vietnam attended the launch event.

Also, private company representatives of "Straight Circles" of the Netherlands, "Simply Fit" of the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia's "PT. Adhikara Bumi Sedaya" Egypt's "Harvest," Tunisia's "Insight," Spain's "Autonoma," Lebanon's "Salma Maternity Wear," Botswana's "Pennyrock Investments," Tanzania's "GICC and FINBIZ" participated in the launch event.



teacher of Mongolian Language and Literature in secondary school No.1 of the capital city of Mongolia Nanzad Tseveen, Senior Teacher of "Unur Bul" child center Davaa Dashdulam, Consultant Teacher of "Tugs Bayasakh" NGO for disabled children Tamjid Bolormaa; Merit Scientific Figure-Member of the Social Science Research Council of Mongolian Academy of Sciences Baltav Tsoogoo; Merit Lawyer-Attorney of "Legal Aid Center" Dagvasambuu Purevdorj; Merit Herder-Herder of Dundgobi aimag Sodnom Baatar; Merit Mechanist-Director of "Bootsiin Taria" LLC Sedbaidar Baatar.

Mongolia Adopts Anti-Corruption Law in 2006

During its history, The Parliament of Mongolia has adopted the Anti-Corruption law twice. The first Anti-Corruption Law was adopted on April 5, 1996, with 18 articles in 3 chapters. Researchers believe that the implementation of the law was insufficient due to the fact that there was no real mechanism to fight corruption at that time, although it was progressive as it was the first to regulate the issue of corruption.

The second Anti-Corruption Law, which was passed on July 6, 2006, repealed the first law.

Draft laws on amendments to the Anti-Corruption Law and related laws were submitted to the Chairman of the Parliament on December 9, 2005, International Anti-Corruption Day, by prominent members of the Parliament who initiated the draft law development. Since submitting the draft law, it took 7 months to be adopted.

Following the adoption of the Anti-corruption law, Independent Authority Against Corruption was established as an independent special government organization with the mandates of preventing corruption, raising public awareness, inspecting public officials' assets and income declarations, and detecting and

investigating corruption crimes. In this sense, the main purpose of the Anti-Corruption Law of 2006 is to define the legal basis of anti-corruption authority and operations, which further regulated the relations connected with it.

Furthermore, the law defines the persons subject to the Anti-corruption law and prohibited certain activities, as well as, legalizing 8 types of corruption violations. In addition, the law regulates the duties and procedures for reporting corruption, filing complaints, and providing information.

The law not only includes the common obligations of enterprises, organizations, and citizens within the framework of public awareness and prevention of corruption but also regulates in detail the duties of public officials to submit declarations of assets and income, as well as duties of anti-corruption officers to inspect and hold them accountable in case of violations.

Chapters 4 and 5 of the Anti-corruption Law regulate the powers, functions, basic principles, structure, procedures for appointment and dismissal of the management of the Anti-Corruption Department, requirements for employees, prohibitions, political, economic, social and legal guarantees.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 07:30 Sunset: 18:30

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -10 C and -8 C. Day time temps between +3 C and +8 C

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -9 C and -4 C. Day time temps between +3 C and +13 C

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -12 C and -7 C. Day time temps between +4 C and +12 C

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -8 C and -3 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +12 C



President Holds Telephone Conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

The President of Mongolia Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh spoke with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky by telephone at his request on February 21, 2023.

Conveying his wishes for the Tsagaan Sar to the people of Mongolia, the President of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky expressed his gratitude to Mongolia for sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine, highlighted his satisfaction with the cooperation between our two countries, and recalled his childhood memories in Mongolia.

In response, President Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh ex-



pressed his gratitude for his greetings and wishes for the Tsagaan Sar to the people of Mongolia.

Expressing his deep concern over the current situation in Ukraine, Mr. Khurelsukh emphasized that intensifying the international community efforts and diplomatic actions, especially

peace negotiations would be the best solution to the conflict.

Moreover, President Khurelsukh highlighted the Mongolian commitment to maintaining balanced relations with our two neighbors and third neighbors and its peace-loving, open, independent, and multi-pillar foreign policy.

Highly valuing the traditionally friendly relations between the two countries, the sides exchanged views on some issues of cooperation and reaffirmed their intentions to continue the cooperation within the framework of the UN and other international organizations.

Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be Held in Mongolia

During the 59th Munich Security Conference (MSC), the Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg met with women foreign ministers of some countries on February 18.

Women Foreign Ministers from 11 countries attended this annual conference and exchanged views on global governance, armed conflict, climate change, trade and overcoming the international and regional challenges.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg handed the



invitation for the Women Foreign Ministers' meeting, which will be held in Ulaanbaatar between June

29-30 over to the ministers and provided information about the meeting.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Meets Her Japanese Counterpart

The 59th Munich Security Conference (MSC) was held from February 17 to February 19, 2023, in Munich, Germany. Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg met with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Hayashi Yoshimasa during the 59th Munich Security Conference.

During the meeting, the sides expressed their satisfaction with the last year's wide-scale com-

memoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the successful organization of the state visit of the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to Japan.

In addition, the sides reaffirmed their intentions to work closely together in further developing Mongolia-Japan relations based on the principles of "Spe-



cial Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity."

Dry Ports to be Built in Mongolia



The Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Road and Transport Development have been paying attention to expanding the capacity and operation of the transport and logistics sector. Last year, AH 4a – a road corridor connecting Xinjiang of the PRC to the Russian Federation via the Yarant /Ulaanbaishint/ Tsagaanur road was opened for transportation. In addition, the national railway network has been expanding and the projects for Artssuuri-Shiveekhuren western railway and Ereentsav-Bichigt

eastern railway have been started.

Mongolia has joined the Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network, and Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, initiated by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and has been actively working toward common commitments. Minister of Road and Transport Development S. Byambatsogt met with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana and agreed to cooperate on projects and programs to build dry ports.

While noting the necessity to create a dry port in Mongolia to increase the carrying capacity of freight transportation, ensure fast clearance, and increase the volume of transit freights, the Minister of Road and Transport Development S. Byambatsogt said, "We are planning to build dry ports in International airport in Khushig Valley, Altanbulag port and Zamiin-ud port at first, and then, in Khovd and Dornod

aimags." To that extent, Minister S. Byambatsogt expressed his intention to cooperate with UN ESCAP on developing a feasibility study for the dry port to be built in Mongolia, determining its scope of operation, and settling the investment and infrastructure issues. Moreover, the Minister asked Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana for support in linking the Khovd-Altai-Bayankhongor-Arvaikheer-Mandalgovi-Choir route to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network of ESCAP and making it an official route of this network.

Expressing her appreciation for the fact that Mongolia is paying special attention and putting concerted efforts into developing the transport and logistics sector and implementing strategically important projects, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana said that she would pledge all-round support for Mongolian dry port and railway construction projects.

CABINET SESSION



At its session on March 1, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

The Government of Mongolia will exercise its ownership right in Mongolian Oil Refinery Plant through the Erdenes Mongol LLC

The Cabinet made a decision to exercise its ownership right in Mongolian Oil Refinery Plant through the Erdenes Mongol LLC. Accordingly, the Executive Director of Erdenes Mongol LLC was tasked to amend the company charter. Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry J. Ganbaatar was tasked to monitor the construction process of Oil Refinery Plant and crude oil pipelines in accordance with the policy of relevant ministry.

About 210 thousand tons of coal have been traded via Mongolian Stock Exchange

In order to organize the market trade of mining products in an open, transparent and fair manner, create favorable condition where the prices are set by exchanges, attract investors into mining sector through integrated export policy, openly disseminate the information on trading, agreements and deals to the international market, and improve the competitiveness of the mining products, the "Procedures on Open E-Trade of Coal for Export" was approved by the Resolution No. 466 of the Government of Mongolia in December 14, 2022.

Within the framework of this Procedures, 210 thousand tons of coal of Energy Resources LLC and Erdenes Tavantolgoi JSC have been traded through five online auctions since January 12, 2023.

Based on the feedbacks and suggestions from the e-trade participants, the Cabinet amended the "Procedures on Open E-Trade of Coal for Export," approved by the Resolution

No. 466 of the Government of Mongolia. According to the amendment, coal terminal for the coal traded through e-trade is changed to "Container Terminal or Loading and Unloading area at Gantsmod border checkpoint" and security deposit rate is decreased from 10% to five percent.

S. Byambatsogt: In 2023, the Air Communication Agreement will be established with another ten countries

The Cabinet approved the draft Agreement on Air Communication of the Government of Mongolia with Qatar and Kuwait and decided to grant the signing right to the Minister of Road and Transport Development S. Byambatsogt.

Goals to liberalize the air transport, increase the number of foreign flights, resume the domestic flights and make the Chinggis Khaan International Airport an international hub airport are included in the Action Plan and the "New Revival Policy" of the Government of Mongolia. Furthermore, the tourism is one of the main sectors for diversifying economy and increasing the income in foreign currencies. The Government announced 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia." To that extent, the Ministry of Road and Transport Development has been striving for comfortable air transport, affordable tickets and sufficient number of flights. As of today, Mongolia has signed Air Communication Agreement with 39 countries and in 2023, it is expected to sign Agreement with another ten countries.

The Minister of Road and Transport Development said, "We are going to sign 'Open Sky' Air Communication Agreement with the USA and Australia in 2023. Other agreements with Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom will be finalized in the first half of this year. The establishment of the Air Communication Agreements will allow Mongolia to conduct flights to airline hubs without any restrictions."

"Mongolian Days" Event in Doha

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia L. Sergelen to Qatar with residence in Kuwait presented his Letter of Credence to the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on February 22.



On the occasion of presenting the Letter of Credence, the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani received Ambassador L. Sergelen. At the beginning of the meeting, Ambassador L. Sergelen conveyed the greetings of the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to the Emir and expressed his willingness to further develop friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Qatar, especially the cooperation in economy, trade, agriculture, culture, and tourism sector.

Noting the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Qatar, marking this year, Ambassador highlighted the plan to organize a "Mon-

golian Days" event with Mongolian cultural performances, a business forum, and a fashion show between March 5-6 in Qatar.

While congratulating him on his assignment as the Ambassador to Qatar with residence in Kuwait, the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani affirmed that the Government of Qatar would pledge full support to the Ambassador's further endeavors to advance the cooperation in all sectors of our two countries.



Mongolian-Austrian Business Forum by WKO in Vienna

The Embassy of Mongolia in Austria, the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO) will jointly organize Mongolian-Austrian Business Forum on March 16-22 in Vienna at WKO Building.

According to the organizers, the Austrian Economic Chamber functions as the federal parent organization for the State Chambers and trade associations of Austria.

The representatives of banking and financial institutions, pharmaceutical, food, and technological companies from the Austrian side, on the Mongolian side, gold mining, wool, cashmere, and food-related enterprises side have registered to participate in this forum.

At the forum, the sides will exchange information on the development of business and economic relations and discuss the opportunities to cooperate in increasing the trade volume between the two countries.

The business forum for the

business communities of our two countries has been paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the last two years.

In 2019, Austrian health project implementer "AME International," railway, construction, and industrial technology company "Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH," paper and paper product manufacturer "IBS Austria GmbH," medical equipment and infrastructure company "VAMED Engineering GmbH" participated at the last Mongolian-Austrian business forum held in Ulaanbaatar.

In addition, the representatives of banks, financial institutions, and leading companies such as construction and installation bearing steel manufacturer "Waagner-Biro Austria Stage Systems GmbH," technology outsourcing "VACE Systemtechnik GmbH," rescue and firefighting machinery company "Rosenbauer International AG," "Raiffeisen Bank International AG" and "UniCredit Bank Austria AG" participated and introduced their activities and products during the last forum.

Mongolia to Export Organic Products to Europe

BioFach 2023, the number one exhibition for the organic food industry sector, took place from February 14 to 17 at the Messe Nuremberg, Germany.

In this exhibition, 12 representatives of the Standing Committee on Environment, Food and Agriculture of the State Great Khural, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology, Mongolian National Authority for Accreditation, Food and Agriculture Department of Dundgovi aimag, and SFCS Certification LLC participated with the support of Export Promotion Project, financed

by the World Bank and UNIDO.

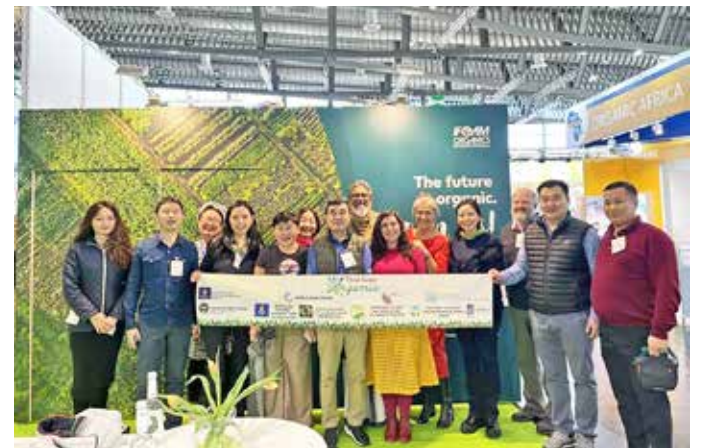
The 34th round of BioFach-2023 attracted 36,000 trade visitors and approximately 51 000 trade visitors from 135 countries this year. This exhibition is regarded as the most important trend-and-order platform for professionals and manufacturers and, therefore, as the best B2B event of the year.

Currently, organic agriculture is practiced in 191 countries, and 76.4 million hectares of agricultural land have been managed organically by at least 3.1 million farmers. The organic market reached EUR 124.8 billion, an increase of 1.7 percent in 2022. During the exhibition, the USDA

announced a USD 300 million plan to support current and transitioning organic farmers.

The Mongolian representatives received the Membership Certificate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Light Industry of Mongolia to Organics International from Karen Mapusua, President of IFOAM, and agreed to cooperate with the Polish certification body to export Mongolian organic products to the European market and facilitate trade.

Moreover, the Mongolian representatives met with David Crucefix, Executive Director of IOAS of Organics International. They agreed on the terms and



conditions of the Accreditation Agreement for the Product and System Accreditation Department of the Mongolian Agency for

Standardization and Metrology and SFCS Certification LLC to be accredited.

Mongolian Stock Exchange News



MSE Trade News

Mongolian Stock Exchange (MSE) JSC traded 1,385,758 shares of 45 companies by MNT 237,304,869 on March 01.

According to the MSE, the share prices of twenty-six companies increased, eighteen companies declined, and one remained unchanged respectively. "Gan Khiits" JSC (GHC +14.90%), "Ulaanbaatar Khivs" JSC (UBH +14.87%), and "Materialimpex" JSC (MIE +13.85%) were the top performers, whereas "Buligaar" JSC (MBG -12.39%), "Kharkhorin" JSC (HHN -7.89%) and "Ittools" JSC (ITLS -7.44%) were the worst performers.

Two investment funds' 24,601 units of shares were traded for MNT 8,008,272. The MSE Top 20 Index decreased by 0.17 percent and reached 40,319.01 points making the MSE market capitalization at MNT 6,984,664,322,157.

"Tavantolgoi" JSC to Distribute Dividends

The Board of Directors

of "Tavantolgoi" JSC held a meeting on February 25 and made a decision to distribute dividends.

The company planned to distribute about MNT 61 billion as dividends in accordance with their business plan for 2022. However, the Board decided to distribute dividends of MNT 2743.80 per share, totaling MNT 144 billion, considering the preliminary net profit.

"E-Trans Logistics" JSC to Distribute Dividends

According to the Resolution of the Board of Directors meeting of "E-Trans Logistics" JSC, the Board approved to distribute dividends of MNT 3.00 per share from net profits of 2022.

The list of shareholders eligible for dividends will be determined as the record date of the ordinary shareholders' meeting. The dividends will be placed in the shareholders' accounts held at the Mongolian Central Securities Depository by December 31, 2023.

Monthly Average Household Income Increases by 12.4%

According to the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, in January 2023, the consumer price index at the national level increased by 1.2% from the previous month and by 12.3% from the same period of the last year. It includes:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages group—14.0% increase in prices
- Alcoholic beverages—8.7% increase in prices
- Clothing, cloth, and footwear group—15.6% increase in prices.

Ten products that mainly caused the increase in consumer prices is explaining the 25.9 percent of the total inflation. It includes the price increase of bread, flour, and rice by 32.4 percent and gasoline by 15.5 percent.

Balance of Payment

In 2022, by preliminary results, the balance of payment was in deficit of USD 727.2 million and increased by USD 505.6 million compared to the previous year. In 2022, by preliminary results, the current account balance of payment was in deficit of USD 2.9 billion and increased by USD 767.3 (36.4%) million compared to the previous year.

This deficit in the current account was mainly due to the following reasons:

- Increase in the deficit of USD 263.2 million in trade in goods and
- Increase in the deficit of USD 661.6 million in the trade-in service.

Household Income and Expenditure

According to the Household Socio-Economic Survey result

in the fourth quarter of 2022, the monthly average household income was MNT 1.8 million, which increased by MNT 204.1 (12.4%) thousand compared to the same period of the previous year.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the average monthly real income (price changes adjusted) reached 1.2 million MNT, decreased by MNT 8.4 (0.7%) thousand compared to the same period of the previous year and decreased by MNT 20.4 (1.7%) thousand compared to the previous quarter.

The 0.7% decrease from the same period of the previous year mainly resulted from MNT 51.1 (15.7%) thousand decline in real income from pensions and allowances. The monthly average household monetary expenditure reached MNT 1.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2022, which increased by MNT 356.4 (25.3%) thousand compared to the same period of the previous year. The monthly average household real expenditure (price changes adjusted) in the fourth quarter of 2022 was MNT 1.2 million, increased by MNT 92.5 (8.6%) thousand compared to the same period of the previous year.

Foreign Trade

Mongolia traded with 107 countries from all over the world in January 2023, and the total trade turnover reached USD 1.8 billion, of which exports were USD 1.1 billion and imports were USD 688.0 million. The total foreign trade turnover increased by USD 669.5 (61.1%) million, where exports increased by USD 538.1 (99.7%) million and imports increased by USD 131.5 (23.6%) million compared to

the same period of the previous year. In January 2023, exports decreased by USD 318.0 (22.8%) million and imports decreased by USD 145.1 (17.4%) million compared to the previous month.

Time Deposit

The money supply (M2) reached MNT 29.7 trillion at the end of January 2023, which increased by MNT 2.9 (10.9%) trillion compared with the same period of the previous year, as reported by the preliminary results. The main reasons for this increase were MNT 2.7 (2.2 times more) trillion increase in the current account in foreign currency and MNT 1.4 (35.7%) trillion increase in time deposits in foreign currency.

The national currency in circulation reached MNT 1.0 trillion at the end of January 2023, which decreased by MNT 50.5 (4.6%) billion from the previous month. It decreased by 137.9 (11.7%) billion from the same period of the previous year.

According to the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, at the end of January 2023, the net foreign assets amounted to MNT 3.5 trillion, increased by MNT 974.1 (39.1%) billion from the previous month and increased by MNT 957.0 (38.1%) billion from the same period of the previous year. The net domestic assets amounted to MNT 26.3 trillion, decreased by MNT 919.1 (3.4%) billion from the previous month while increasing by MNT 2.0 (8.0%) trillion from the same period of the previous year. Net domestic assets have been composed of the annual growth of the money supply.

Savior of Przewalski's Horses – The Prague Zoo



■ On January 29th, we met with Mr. Miroslav Bobek, the director of the Prague Zoo, in Hustain Nuruu. We discussed the tragedy and eventual recovery of Przewalski's horses, the Prague Zoo's ongoing projects, and new initiatives being implemented by the zoo.

Mr. Bobek is a zoologist who graduated from Charles University in Prague. Since 2010, he has been serving as the Prague Zoo's director. In addition to being a zoologist, journalist, publisher, and author, Mr. Bobek is also the creator of numerous books, documentaries, and television shows about animals. He has also won renowned science and wildlife conservation awards. To name a few of his most recent accomplishments, he is in charge of initiatives such as the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses to their native land, Mongolia, and the conservation of gorillas in Cameroon, Africa.

Under his direction, the Prague Zoo set a new annual visitor record, and information about rare and endangered animals became more widely available to the public. He first visited Mongolia in 2000 to conduct studies on animal migration. The President of Mongolia awarded Miroslav Bobek the "Medal of Friendship" in 2014 and the "Order of the Polar Star" in 2022 for his significant role in the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses to Mongolia.

Miroslav Bobek: "It's no accident that I became a zoologist, my grandfather was a hunter and my mother was a natural science teacher. I believe that all of this influenced me to choose a career related to the animal world."

The fourth project to reintroduce Przewalski's horses to Mongolia will take place in Eastern Mongolia

-The purpose of our trip to Mongolia this time is to work in the new location chosen for the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses, as well as to meet with Mongolian officials and discuss this new project. Przewalski's horses were reintroduced in three other locations, Hustain Nuruu, Gobi's "B" territory, and Khomyn Tal. Currently, there are no Przewalski's horses in Eastern Mongolia. We chose Sumiin Khooloi in Khalkh Gol Soum of Dornod province in Eastern Mongolia as the site of our fourth reintroduction project after conducting in-depth fieldwork, biological research, and geographic analysis on the distribution of the animals, the yield of plants, species, pastures, topography, parasites, winter

weather, and other factors. We are planning on signing the last necessary documents with the Mongolian side soon. Afterward, other important tasks, such as funding and transportation will begin. To start, we are planning domestic transportation of Przewalski's horses to the east of Mongolia (the first transportation work from the Hustain Nuruu to Khalkh Gol is scheduled to be finished by 2026), followed by transportation of a number of Przewalski's horses from the Czech Republic.

The majority of the funding will be provided by the Prague Zoo, and we'll coordinate efforts to secure additional funding from other sources. While in Mongolia this time, we met with the Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, the Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry of Mongolia, and the Governor of Dornod province. We conclude that the meetings were effective. They all warmly support the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses in Dornod province. This project is anticipated to be advantageous to all parties.

From Prague to Khomyn Tal and to Takhiin Tal

-For the past twelve years, our zoo has been actively working on the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses. Shortly after I was appointed as the director of the zoo, I visited a center where horses are trained for transportation to other locations; it was located 100 km from Prague. Two gates were there, one containing mares and the other stallions. The director of the center informed me that it was planned to transport these horses to Mongolia, but the transportation was cut off at that time and it was unclear when it would resume, so they were waiting. After learning about this, I told the director that I will arrange the transportation of these horses, which took the director by surprise.

There was news that approximately 50% of the previously transported horses had passed away due to severe weather conditions during those years. So I soon began looking for an aircraft to complete the transportation work in the quickest amount of time feasible. Because of our zoo's difficult financial status at the time, we were unable to rent a commercial airplane. So we

went to meet with the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces, explained our predicament to them, asking if they might assist. They agreed to fly us there using one of their aircraft. Petr Pavel, who was the Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces at the time, was elected President of the Czech Republic yesterday (28th of January). In May 2011, a military CASA aircraft flew the first Przewalski's horse mares to Mongolia and landed at the Khovd provincial airport. Four mares were driven to Khomyn Tal from there in a car. The other mares were then transported from Khovd airport to Bulgan airport, where they were then sent to the "B" territory of the Gobi. Seeing these horses today thrive and graze in the countryside makes us incredibly proud. I recall the most emotional moment when we opened the crate and the Przewalski's horses stepped out, with happiness after many hours of work and a 20-hour aircraft flight to arrive in Mongolia. We transported a total of 34 Przewalski's horses to Khomyn Tal and Gobi's "B" territory between 2011 and 2019 via 9 different shipments. One of our biggest accomplishments is this. Transportation is one thing, but the support and assistance for them to live in the wild is the most crucial component. We are therefore working on providing the preservationists with a comfortable environment, transportation, and support for their research.

The blood of the Przewalski's horses from our Zoo is running through the bodies of the most Takhi horses in Mongolia today...

-You all might get surprised. There isn't a single horse that was born in the Prague Zoo in Hustain Nuruu, where we are right now. There was one... but it is no longer here.

However, this does not negate the Prague Zoo's contribution to the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses in Hustain Nuruu. Our zoo was involved in the projects from the beginning by donating our horses, and the chosen horses were settled in Mongolia. Hence, it can be claimed that the horses still carry a little amount of the blood of the Prague Zoo horses because the majority of the horses from the first generation to settle in Mongolia were from Prague. All of the horses that our zoo sent to Mongolia were not born at the Prague Zoo; rather, they were transported to Prague from various locations in Europe where horses are found and were then chosen to be transported. For generations, the horses in our Prague Zoo have been considered to be the healthiest and most genetically fit. Hence, horses from our zoo have been selected from the very beginning when Przewalski's horses were first reintroduced to Mongolia, their native land.

"Little Mongolia" will open soon

May I surprise you again? Right now there are not any Przewalski's horses on the territory of the Prague Zoo. Besides our

Prague Zoo, five horses are placed in another site, and thirty horses are in a center where horses are trained for transportation to other locations. The reason for this is that we are currently trying to build a "Little Mongolia" that will depict the steppes and meadows of Mongolia in the area of the Prague Zoo where the Przewalski's horses used to live. In other words, the visitors, who are coming to see the horses will not only learn about their history, their life in the wild, and their biology, but they will also learn about the steppes and meadows of Mongolia, how they were reintroduced to Mongolia and much more all in one setting. We believe that this will present several opportunities to increase scientifically based understanding of Przewalski's horses while also promoting Mongolia and the horses around the world.

To be completely honest, our Prague Zoo does not rank among the best zoos in terms of territory size, funding, animal population, or species diversity. Yet we do rank in the top 10 zoos with the best living conditions for the animals.

The Prague Zoo is a place that has contributed the most to the rescue of the Przewalski's horses, which were transported to Europe, from the danger of extinction over the years, and

is still taking a leading role in reintroducing the horses to their homeland. Therefore, in 2021, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums awarded the WAZA Conservation Award to the Prague Zoo for its "long-term contribution to the rescue of the Przewalski's horses". "It was a great honor for us" Mr. M. Bobek recalled.

The introduction of Przewalski's horses to the Prague Zoo dates back to the 1930s. In 1934, the zoo bought its first Przewalski's horse from a wildlife dealer. Subsequently, in 1959, the reintroduction of the horse to its native land was initiated by the director of the zoo at that time, Professor Zdeněk Veselovský and Yuri Wolf. After more than 30 years, this initiative became a reality. Several Przewalski's horses from the Prague Zoo were among the Przewalski's horses that were brought back to Mongolia from 1992. Because the zoos in Prague and Munich housed the healthiest and most genetically fit horses in Europe.

Mr. M. Bobek noted that, along with the reintroduction projects, the Prague Zoo has been involved in the protection of the Mongolian Saiga antelope and the Mongolian wild Bactrian camel in recent years, and is providing financial assistance to implement projects.



Gashuunsukhait Checkpoint to Become International Port

During the discussion on "Electronic Trading of Export Coal" that was held on February 27, The Minister of Mongolia and the Chairman of the National Committee for Port Revitalization Kh. Bulgantuya said, "The coal export is carried out by four types of terminals: railway, road transport, container, and automatic AGV transport." She also informed that the export coal sold during the e-auction should be delivered through the container terminal, one of the four gateways designated for electronic trading.



proposal to the Chinese side and received a response to settle the necessary infrastructure and investments from our side. Both sides agreed on bringing the port up to the international standards."

In this regard, the planning and preparation work were completed, and investment and financing issues were settled. Yet, the process was interrupted because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The construction work will start in April of this year and be com-

pleted by the end of 2023. She said that this would increase the export output, and end the long truck queues at the port.

In connection with the 24/7 operation of the port, transshipping yards at Tsagaan Khad will no longer be necessary. In

other words, there will be no short-distance transportation. It will also stop the situation where there is loss while transferring the load at Tsagaan Khad, causing coal theft and corruption. After putting the International Port into operation, the long-distance

transportation of coal directly to the border will start. The Minister of Mongolia and the Chairman of the National Committee for Port Revitalization Kh. Bulgantuya continued that it would result in smooth and continuous operations.

The Minister of Mongolia, Kh. Bulgantuya informed that the Government of Mongolia would support all possible transportation terminals for exporting coal and encouraged mining companies to sign contracts with shipping and delivery companies instead of seeking to obtain transportation licenses. She also noted that electronic trading would eliminate the issue of conspiring to sell coal at a low price and supplying it at a low price in advance through offtake contracts. This is the common practice in global market trade, and it will increase the transparency of taxes and income in the country.



The Chairman of the Committee continued, "The coal importers and transporters proposed to make Gashuunsukhait port, which handles 50-60 percent of coal exports, as an international port that operates 24/7. We have officially put forward this

Mines and Coal Producers to Arrange Their Coal Transportation

Road transportation plays a vital role in the electronic trading of coal, as transportation costs account massive part of the coal trade.

According to the Plenipotentiary Representative of Government for "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" Company J. Ganbat, tendering the transportation companies aims to make coal

transportation more transparent and reduce transportation costs.

Temporary resolutions for mining companies to participate in electronic trading with their own delivery options are now being changed as well in order to make the operation transparent. During the meeting and discussion on "Electronic Trading of Export Coal" held on February 27 at "Tuushin" hotel, the Minister of Mining

and Heavy Industry, J. Ganbaatar said, "Coal transportation will be arranged by the mines, producers, manufacturers, and processing companies themselves. The related ministry will not participate from the Government side.

When the government starts participating, it will return to the old manner or illegal way of coal trading.

The purpose of digital trading

is to eliminate all illegal attempts, and conduct, and promote open and fair trade. Earlier, politicians and ministries used to interfere in the operation, but now their intervention is limited to policy making."

Representatives of about 200 Chinese coal-purchasing companies attended this meeting, jointly organized by the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry and the Financial Regulatory

Commission. At the meeting, the organizers presented and explained the Law on Mining Exchange, which will come into force from July 1 of this year, and the Regulation on electronic trading of export coal. In addition, the participants also discussed how electronic trading takes place after law enforcement and how to make long-term and short-term contracts.

Oyu Tolgoi Underground Mine to be Opened on March 13



The Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene reported during his interview with MNB that the opening ceremony of the Oyu Tolgoi underground mine would be held on March 13, 2023.

Noting the investor side's letter to write off Mongolia's USD 2.3 billion debt, for its share (34 percent) of Oyu Tolgoi owned by the Government of Mongolia, the Prime Minister of Mongolia said that

further developments had been impossible to accomplish due to this debt. This bottleneck has held up for over ten years and become one of the hottest political topics. The opening ceremony of the OT underground mine will be a milestone in the history of Mongolia and the underground mine. Furthermore, it will also provide an opportunity to increase Mongolia's GDP two times. In other words, our future is on the bright side.

Discussion on "Electronic Trading of Export Coal" Organized Successfully

To set actual market prices of coal and ensure accurate, and prompt delivery of trading information to sellers, buyers, and other participants, the discussion on "Electronic Trading of Export Coal" was held successfully at Premier Tuushin Hotel on February 27.

Within the "Procedure on Electronic Trading of Export Coal" framework approved by Resolution No. 466 of the Government of Mongolia, export coal that meets "Coal Classification MNS 6457:2022" will be traded in an open, transparent, and fair method. It will establish the prerequisites for fair market

price determination and accurate and timely trading information delivery to all stakeholders, including buyers, sellers, and other parties.

The Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry J. Ganbaatar, the Head of National Committee for Port Revitalization Kh. Bulgantuya, Financial Regulatory Commission Deputy Chairman T. Tserenbadral, CEO of the Mongolian Stock Exchange Kh. Altai opened the discussion. The Director of the Business Development Department T. Khash-erdene presented the regulations and instructions for regulating coal trading.

CONSULTING SERVICE RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Date: February 27, 2023

Tender Name: **Conducting Feasibility study (FS) and full detailed engineering design of Gashuun Sukhait-Gants mod port cross-border railway**

Tender number: **TTZ/202301001**

• As Tavantolgoi Railway LLC is going to contract a consulting service for "Conducting Feasibility study (FS) and full detailed engineering design of Gashuun Sukhait-Gants mod port cross-border railway", interested entity is invited to send us the Request for Proposal (RFP).

• This consulting service includes:

Conducting Feasibility study (FS) and full detailed engineering design of Gashuun Sukhait-Gants mod port cross-border railway

• The international or domestic entity shall submit the following information to prove the ability to perform the consulting service.

• Formal letter for participating in the consulting service recruitment.

• Company profile introduction and copy of entity certificate

• Copy of state registration certificate.

• Copy of special licenses for conducting feasibility study, detailed engineering design, and cost estimate. (Foreign entities shall submit a copy of a document equivalent to a special license)

• Financial statements of the last 3 years in a list.

• List of information about similar work the entity have done in the past. (Experience in developing railway project FS, detailed engineering design, and cost estimate will be considered as an advantage.)

• List of information about the working personnels, (Information about the main personnels required to prepare the FS, detailed engineering design and cost estimate of the railway project.)

• Statement of the tax authority. (In the case of a foreign enterprise, the statement of the tax authority of the country of establishment.)

• Documents in foreign languages must be translated by a certified translation agency.

• Interested entity that meets the above requirements can get additional information between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m on March 6, 2023 and shall submit the RFP below address tender.gov.mn by 11:00 a.m on March 13, 2023.

**Ulaanbaatar city, Sukhbaatar district, 1st district, 13th district
/14320/, 62 Sun road, Union Building block B, 11th floor.**

**Phone number: 976+77777727-507 (Procurement division),
976+77777727-506 (Head of External Relations division-Foreign Languages)**

Mongolia-Japan to Cooperate on Professional Training and Information Technology

A working team headed by the Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan worked in Japan between February 3-12. Over the course of this visit, several meetings were held on extending collaboration in the areas, including professional training, information technology, and capacity building of the university hospital.

Minister of Education and Science Expressed Gratitude on Behalf of the Government of Mongolia

During the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan expressed gratitude on behalf of the Government of Mongolia to the Government of Japan for their economic assistance, support, and valuable contributions to many sectors, especially economic, social and education sector development since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries.

For his side, Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa said, "In addition to the official visits of the President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh, Prime Minister L. Oyunerdene, and Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg, I paid an official visit to Mongolia as well. This time, the Minister of Education and Science of Mongolia is paying an official visit to Japan, which is demonstrating the fact that the cooperation between our two countries has been actively developing. We will cooperate with Mongolia in the education sector which develops and inspires HUMAN, a basis to strengthen relations and cooperation between people of the two countries in all sectors."

Readiness Expressed to Cooperate in Education Sector

During the visit, Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan met with Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan Keiko Nagaoka and put forth several proposals to cooperate. For instance, there are three Japanese-style KOSEN (College of Industrial Technology) colleges in Mongolia, where around 1000 students are studying. In the further, introducing the KOSEN education system to about 40 Vocational Training Centers and colleges of Mongolia and preparing highly skilled technical engineers will be our main goal. To that extent, the Minister of Education and Science requested the Japanese side to extend the operation period of KOSEN representative office in Mongolia.

In regard to agriculture, opportunities to train Mongolian students in Namegata city, Ibaraki, let them do their internship there and gain best practices were also discussed. Number of students who study in Japan has drastically decreased due to the pandemic. Now the goal to increase the number to the same level as prior to the pandemic by 2027 has been set. Furthermore, since the 1000 Engineers Program has successfully completed, the Minister of Education and Science proposed to re-start the 2nd Program and cooperate on business projects of innovative start-up companies of Mongolia.

At the meeting, the two parties also exchanged opinions regarding the growing need for functional enhancement and human resource development at Mongolia-Japan Hospital affiliated to the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences



and agreed to cooperate on this matter.

While expressing her readiness to support the cooperation in education sector, Ms. Keiko Nagaoka said that it is better to implement the investment projects through the JICA based on the agreement between Governments of Mongolia and Japan.

A New Educational Platform of Google will be Introduced in Mongolia

Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan met with the representatives of the Google company and discussed their educational online tools for teachers and students.

During the meeting, the parties agreed to:

- Tailor the curriculum of information technology courses to the characteristics of each grade of secondary schools and Vocational training centers.

- Cooperate on equipping teachers with computers, and implement project to improve quality of education

- Introduce Google's modern software and innovative applica-

tions for education and corporate digital solutions to eliminate the burden of outdated program, ease teacher's workload and improve digital environment.

The 2nd Phase of the Mongolia-Japan Hospital Project will be Jointly Implemented with JICA

The officials from the Ministry of Education and Science working in Japan held a meeting with Tanaka Akihiko, President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at JICA headquarters. The Mongolian side put forth proposals to implement projects in science and innovation and cooperate in supporting start-up companies following the Mongolian Government's policy.

The JICA side presented their decision to start the 2nd phase of the Mongolia-Japan hospital project, which was built using JICA grant aid, to build hospital expansion, prepare highly skilled doctors and supply advanced medical equipment with high accuracy.

The sides then discussed implementing joint projects with university hospitals and health research centers in Japan.

Mongolian First Ever Online School "MEDLE"

Mongolian first ever online school "MEDLE" was launched in the school year of 2022-2023.

Since its launching, a total of 10407 10th-grade students from 499 secondary schools of 21 aimags, and nine districts of the capital city, Mongolia, have attended.

The students are studying 16 subjects taught by 148 teachers via "MEDLE."

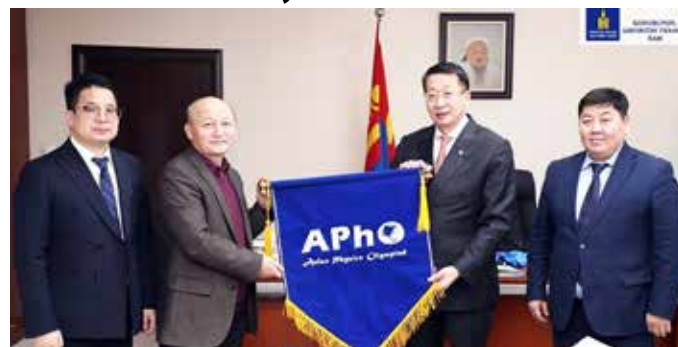
The most significant feature

of this online school "MEDLE" is that it allows students to acquire knowledge from outstanding teachers of Mongolia from anywhere they want and follow specialization tracks in natural sciences, mathematics, or humanities.

Only 10th-grade students have participated this year, whereas 11-12 grade students will be eligible to study in the online school "MEDLE" in the upcoming year.



Asian Physics Olympiad to be Held in Ulaanbaatar in May



According to the decision of the State Great Khural dated February 20, 2023, Mongolia will host the 23rd Asian Physics Olympiad in Ulaanbaatar.

The Olympiad will be held in Mongolia from May 22 to 30, 2023, and currently, over 54 professors and 140 students from 18 countries have tentatively confirmed their participation.

The Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan will lead the working group for organizing the Olympiad. Moreover, the Minister of Finance was tasked to settle the financing of MNT 3.2 billion, which is the

cost of organizing the 23rd Asian Physics Olympiad.

For the host country, organizing the APhO brings the following opportunities,

- To promote and advertise physics science;

- To identify the level of physics science development and students' knowledge and skills of Asian countries;

- To develop foreign relations of Mongolian physics science sector;

- To support Mongolians interested in studying physics science and enable them to compete internationally.

The lawyer's advice

Hanns Seidel Foundation

In cooperation with Hanns-Seidel Foundation Project Mongolia and its "Legal Education" Academy

-What are rights do citizens have when they are participating in the local self-governance?

-According to the Constitution of Mongolia citizens have the right to participate in local self-governance directly or through their representing (or delegating) body. A citizen has the rights to be elected to the Citizens Representative Meetings of aimags, soums, the capital city and districts, vote for the representative (delegate), participate in the citizens' Common Meeting of the bags and khoros in person, submit complaints to the local representative body for resolution, obtain information in compliance with the procedure specified in the law.

The citizen shall participate in the local self-governance directly in the following forms:

- Participate in the citizens' Common Meetings of bags and khoros with voting rights;

- Submit proposals on economic and social issues of the respective local territory to the citizens' representative Meeting and the citizens' Common Meetings for discussion and further solution;

- Initiate in the citizens' expression of their opinions and interests voluntarily and rendering decisions.

Citizens eligible to vote in election enjoy the right of joint expression of their interests in order to discuss and draw out proposals on actual problems of the respective soums, bags, districts and khoros. The citizens' Representative Meetings of the respective soums and districts are obliged to discuss these proposals. Citizens have the right to initiate the process of rendering decision on actual economic and social problems of the soums and districts. If not less 10 percent of the eligible citizens of soums and not less 5 percent of the eligible citizens of districts approve this initiative, the citizens' Representative Meetings of soums and district are obliged to discuss them.

If the Citizens Representative Meetings of aimags, soums, the capital city and districts considers necessary, may contact a consulting referendum on decisions to be rendered in respect to actual economic and social problems of the territory.

-Is a property, which had previously been registered on one's ownership but was in family use after marriage considered as the property of joint ownership?

-According to the Civil Code a property or money or property right obtained by a member of a family before marriage shall be an allocated property of that member. However, if it is agreed to transfer own allocated property to the property of joint ownership after marriage registration, the respective property shall be considered as the property of joint ownership irrespective of whether it was obtained before marriage.

Address: Sukhbaatar District, Khoroo 6, Sukhbaatar Street 11-2, Office of the Legal Education Academy (inside the court of the Children's Art Center, in the right side) Tel : 321294
https://mongolia.hss.de/mn/
https://www.facebook.com/HSM Mongolia
hss@mongol.net, akad-rb@mongol.net

Mongolia Seals a Place in the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers



The Group F of FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers was held for three days at the UG Arena in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. After successful runs

in the Pre-Qualifiers, Mongolia, Guam, Thailand, and Hong Kong have punched their tickets to the next stage of FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers, leaving Malaysia

and Singapore.

The Second Round game of the Pre-Qualifiers was between Mongolia and Guam on Saturday night. Mongolia led by as many as 11 points at the first break with a score of 26-15. But Guam slowly turned things around. They pulled within four points at the interval by scoring 39-43. Guam sank 26 points in the third quarter to tie the game up at 65. Anand Ariunbold gave Mongolia an 81-78 lead with just over a minute left in regulation. But Jonathan Galloway sank a free throw, and Earnest Ross fired a cold-blooded pull-up triple right in the face of Sanchir for the go-ahead bucket with 3.4 seconds left. Then, Sanchir attempted to drain back a three-pointer with three seconds remaining in regulation, but unfortunately, failed. Consequently, the winning path turned into Guam.

Mongolia further solidified its status as a team to watch out for in the region after sealing a place in the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers following a 73-49 conquest of Singapore.

Asian top 24 teams will face off in FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers, of which 16 will make a play in the FIBA Asia Cup 2025. The matches are scheduled for November 2023,

November 2024, and February 2025. Preceding these games, the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, which were postponed due to the pandemic, will be held in September 2023.



The Very First Virtual Concert of HU in Metaverse

"The Hu" hunnu rock band is going to host their virtual concert, which will be the first virtual rock concert in the world, in Metaverse on March 30.

NFT tickets are available online at www.hu.rocks and www.metaland.mn. Purchase early bird tickets to get access to the Ticket sales.

Since designing and organizing a virtual concert requires many technological advancements and specialists, Mongolian leading technical and financial companies, including the Tengerleg Media Group, Most Fintech, Grapecity, Diverse Solution, Idax, Metaforce, Ard Bit, Ard Art, and Mongol DFI will jointly organize this concert.

Metaforce, a company that implemented the "Metaland" project in Mongolia, is creating a virtual Ulaanbaatar city. Viewers with virtual avatars from around the world can feel the live experience and share their excitement on the platform. It is a perfect chance for the fans to interact with band members and other fans.



Bronze medalist of the IBA World Boxing Championships, Champion of Asian Games, two-time Asian Champion, and State Honored Athlete of Mongolia Erdenebat Tsendbaatar has started fighting in professional boxing bouts. E. Tsendbaatar has held three victorious wins in professional bouts held in Russia.

On February 24, E. Tsendbaatar stepped into the ring against 28 years old Giovanni José Gutiérrez Rivera (16 fights, 11 wins (4KO), four losses, one draw), alias baby face, from Tipitapa, Nicaragua, then, in the 3rd round, he received his 4th win in the professional boxing ring by spectacular knockout at "Sony Hall" of Manhattan, New York. The Boxing Insider Promotions held this fight.

After the bout, E. Tsendbaatar said, "I came to the USA to accomplish my dream. I will be moving forward continuously to fulfill my dream. I would like to wish success to all my following

E. Tsendbaatar Knocks Out His Opponent in Professional Boxing



rivals. I will be getting better and better day-by-day. I will not lose the trust of someone who

supports me all the time and will shine even brighter than a diamond in the ring."

One Billion Trees

Green Space in Khentii Aimag Increased by 29.5 Percent

In the framework of the "One Billion Tree" national campaign, Khentii aimag has expanded its green space area by 29.5 hectares.

The "Let's Plant Trees" subprogram was initiated in Khentii aimag and over 147 thousand trees have been planted in 18 soums and five villages. More than 20 thousand individuals, 905 enterprises, and 3418 households (double counting) joined forces to plant trees within the work of this subprogram.

In addition, the area of 0.5 hectares was equipped with an irrigation system, while the area of 27 hectares was protected by

38 km of fences.

As a result of the national campaign, 595 temporary jobs have been created in Khentii aimag, 50 of which were filled by Alternative Service Workers. According to the tree census conducted by the Governor's office of the Khentii aimag in cooperation with Senior Citizen's Committee, the tree survival rate is 96.5 percent.



Tamir Khangal Earns MVP of Volleyball Thailand League 2023



Tamir Khangal's stunning performance in Thailand solidified Mongolian athletes' status as a contender to watch out for in the world.

Tamir Khangal is a Mongolian professional volleyball

player who plays as an opposite hitter in Nature Med Noyon of the Mongolian National Premier League. He headed to the Land of Smiles in November 2022 to play in Nakhon Ratchasima VC of the Volleyball Thailand

League 2023.

The tournament kicked off on November 18, 2022, in both men's and women's events, and ended on February 26, 2023.

Nakhon Ratchasima Huione QminC, former seven-time winners, captured their 8th title following their sensational 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-21) win against Phitsanulok VC, without losing a single match to their respective rivals in this top-level professional volleyball league in Thailand.

This year's Volleyball Thailand League was remarkable for Mongolians as the 192 cm tall Tamir Khangal from Mongolia earned Men's Most Valuable Player (MVP). Furthermore, he was selected as Men's Best Opposite Hitter of VTL 2023.